

LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044

Minutes of June 19, 2018

Attending: Mary Johnson, Ellen Paulsen, Marvel Williamson (Senior Resource Center), Tamara Cash, Melissa Williams, Brenda Nunez, Marlene Merrill, Karen Heintzen

Mary welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introduced our speaker and topic for the day:

Brandon McGuire – Assistant City Manager

Following is a summary of Mr. McGuire's remarks:

- An administrative policy for sidewalks and sidewalk hazards was signed by the city manager on March 6th, 2018. City Ordinance 16-105 Hazards:
 - Uneven sidewalks with more than ½ inch deflection/depression.
 - Both the State statute and city policy state that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner.
- The city performs some construction and maintenance of sidewalks.
 - Multiuse paths – 10 feet wide
- Accessible curb ramps –budget of \$9,000 -10,000 to build an ADA approved ramp. Costs no less than \$1,000 per ramp.
- Repair sidewalk hazards which happen because of construction and street tree roots.
- Repair and reconstruction along streets under construction. i.e. Kasold Drive
- Safe routes to schools – block grant gap program.
- Repairs as a result of a complaint-based approach. 60% commercial sites replaced.
- History of the sidewalk debate and who is responsible goes back to 2004.
- Sidewalks part of the Pedestrian-bicycle task force. Recommendations were made to the city commission in their April 2016 report. The city commission directed toe city staff to develop a procedures app.
- Inspection based program rather than a complaint based approach. The staff divided the city into 8 sections of town. They started in the newer NW side of town to learn the procedures, rather than starting into older neighborhoods. The team has to work 1 year ahead of the budget. In August, the next budget will be submitted.
- Core neighborhoods – pedestrian destinations – next year will probably get directed to KU and downtown.
- Sidewalk repairs – 3 categories.
 - Cost share of 50% for corner properties or those with 2 or more sidewalks.
 - 100% subsidy – using HUD household income guidelines. Also home grant program.
- State law allows city to assess repair costs up to 4 years on the tax bills.
- Capital improvement program in its 3rd year. This is a subsidy fund of \$3 million over 5 years. There is \$2.8 million left in the fund.
- Revenue estimates were a little higher than the budget.
- Communities that do it best are smaller and rural.
- CBDG – new construction and gaps.

Bottom line – the Goal of the city sidewalk policy is to help people comply with the policy what states that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owners. Goal is to make sidewalks safer.

- Note Rental units make up 55% of the city housing units.

Marvel noted that DCCF thru Habitat for Humanity has money available for home repairs.

Suggestion for a speaker in future meetings – City Arborist – Crystal – to talk about the city trees.

The next meeting will be July 17 at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson, Secretary

Breakout groups:

Transportation – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

Caregiving – Michele D, Tamara, Judy

Affordable Housing – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn